First Church NEWS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2026



As we enter this season of thanksgiving, we are reminded that gratitude is more than a feeling—it is a way of living. As United Methodists, we believe that our faith is demonstrated not only by what we profess but also by how we live, how we love, and how we share the gifts God has entrusted to us.

Our upcoming stewardship emphasis, "*A Methodist Gives Thanks*," invites us to reflect on the connection between gratitude and generosity. Drawing inspiration from the book, Five Marks of a Methodist: The Fruit of a Living Faith by Steve Harper, we will explore what it means to live with thankful hearts and faithful lives, recognizing that everything we have ultimately comes from God.

Stewardship is about more than meeting a church budget. It is about how we respond to God's goodness with our whole lives. We give because we are grateful. We serve because we have been blessed. We share because God's love has been generously poured into our lives.

May this season remind us that thanksgiving is not limited to a day, a meal, or a holiday. Thanksgiving is a daily expression of a living faith. As Methodists, may we give thanks with our hearts, demonstrate gratitude through our actions, and share God's blessings with joyful generosity.



EPWORTH THANKSGIVING & CHRISTMAS PIE SALE

Each pie sale goes directly towards Epworth Choir!
Note: we are unable to offer the Greens Sale this year due to price increase/transportation costs.

Thanksgiving orders are due **November 4** and will be ready for pick-up Sunday, November 22. Christmas orders are due **December 3** and will be ready December 20. *If you need help getting your pie we will deliver it to you. Please indicate on the order form.* Orders and payment can be placed in the drop box by the Welcome Center OR via Zeffy (Scan QR code).

MEN'S TIME OUT

All men of the church and community are invited to join us **Saturday, November 7** for some food, a time for discussion, and lots of fellowship! MTO runs from 8:30-9:30am in Asbury Hall the first Saturday of each month.





COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Tuesday, November 24 @7pm we will gather for our Ecumenical Community Thanksgiving Worship at First Christian (230 Stow Avenue). We hope you'll join us for this meaningful worship.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY/CHARGE CONFERENCE

Sunday, November 15 we will gather after the 10:45am worship in Wesley Hall for our annual Charge Conference & Potluck (bring a dish to share). We'll also recognize 50 year members!



"Healing through the human experience"

ART SERIES

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

We are very excited to launch our revamped Arts Series which includes a Fall exhibition, new concerts, and interactive community activities, in partnership with the City of Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Recreation! Scan the QR code or visit firstchurchcf.com/arts-series-2. Please share our events with your friends and neighbors!

November 4, 11-Noon | Healing Through Relationships in Parlor Lessons from remarkable couples whose love, resilience and commitment helped them overcome life's challenges and offer lessons in healing, hope and the enduring strength of the human spirit.

November 6, 7:00pm | Moonlight Serenaders in the Sanctuary
Join us for this "big band" style concert featuring special guest vocalist, Marie Willis-Guarneri.

November 20, 6:30-7:30pm | Poetry Night in Parlor Join featured poets Duane Dodson and Karen Dodson as they share their poetry followed by an open mic for all poets and poetry lovers. To sign up, email Marie Willis-Guarneri: fallsfirstmarie@gmail.com (See info about the Chili Cook Off that preceeds @5:30 pm on the following page).

November 12, Noon-1pm | Making of "It's a Wonderful Life" in Parlor
Discover the story behind the making of the 1946 Christmas classic. A healing story of how one life can touch so many others.

November 19, 11-Noon | Exploring Jazz Styles in Wesley Hall
Exploring different styles of Jazz from the past to present. Swing, Bebop, Cool, Latin and Fusion. Listening to music can have positive effects on your mood, mind, social experience and physical body.

December 2, 7PM | Singers Companye Concert in the Sanctuary
Join us at 6:30pm for a pre-concert talk in the Parlor to discuss the works of composers such as Alex Ferko, Jake Runestad, Taylor Scott Davis, Eric Whitacre and Richard Nancy. The concert will follow in the Sanctuary.

December 3, 11-Noon | Declutter & Organize in Parlor
Thoughtfully working through memories and helping people part with sentimental belongings.

TURKEYS FOR OPEN M

Open M is collecting monetary donations toward the purchase of turkeys this year. They are asking for $20 donations. Donations should be placed in the offering plate, drop box, or mailed to the church by the December 7 deadline (please write "turkey" in the memo line). Our goal is to supply enough funding to supply 200 turkeys!

OPEN M
A MINISTRY OF FAITH, HEALTH AND HOPE

WESLEY YOUTH EVENTS

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CUYAHOGA FALLS
WESLEY YOUTH GROUP

November 8th from 3-5pm we'll participate in *Project Feed*, at Kent UMC. December 6, during our normal meeting time, we'll have a Christmas party/gift exchange ($10 or less/gift). Finally, we are looking forward to a New Years Eve lock-in party December 31-January 1, and Winter Retreat February 26-28. More info and details coming soon! For questions about Wesley Youth please contact Kattie Priebe 330-819-1165.

Christian Education News



ADVENT CALENDARS

All children will be given an Advent Calendar in worship on Sunday, November 29.
If you can't be there that week we can make other arrangements for pick up.

ROCK ADVENT

We'll have a special Advent themed ROCK gathering on Sunday, December 6. We'll do a service project, a Christmas themed craft, and have some special snacks.

For any questions regarding children's programming please contact: Donna Curfman, dcurfmanfallsumc@gmail.com or 330-923-5241 x213

FAMILY PROMISE

The foodbank at Family Promise is currently overflowing thanks to your generosity! We can put the food donations on hold for now. However, we will still be collecting monetary donations to cover holiday meals and gifts. Our goal is to cover $500 worth of holiday meals and $1500 worth of gifts for the families of Glendora house. Please make sure to designate "Family Promise" in any of your monetary gifts. Thank you!



CHILI COOK OFF

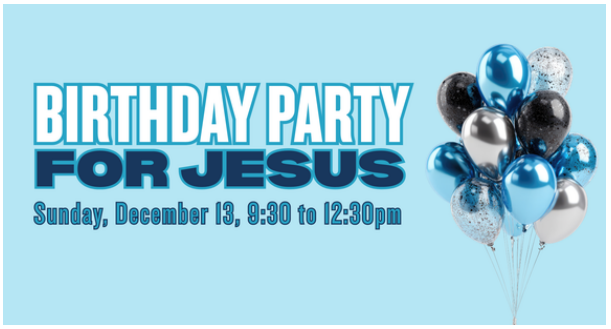
Do you have what it takes to win the "Golden Ladle?"
Sign up to enter your crockpot of chili! More details coming soon!

Scan the QR code or contact Marie to sign-up!
fallsfirstmarie@gmail.com

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR JESUS! *(FORMERLY SANTA BRUNCH)*

Sunday, December 13 from 9:30-12:30pm in Wesley Hall. We're keeping the brunch and changing the theme this year!

Cost: $7/adult, $5/child, $0/under 3.
Bring: A birthday present for Jesus in the form of canned goods, hats, mittens, gloves, etc.
Featuring: Omelet Station, Birthday Cake, Nativity Display
Note: there will not be a "Santa" this year.





CITY OF CF TREE LIGHTING EVENTS

We are once again hosting the CF Community Chorus in our building at 5:00pm.



NATIVITY DISPLAYS WANTED

We'd love to borrow your favorite Nativity display for our "Birthday Party for Jesus" on Sunday, December 13. Drop off your labeled family Nativities by 10:00am on Saturday, December 12 to Donna, or the cart in the Breezeway. They will be displayed on a table at the brunch with an adult supervising. You may pick them up after the brunch on the 13th. Thank you for helping to make our event meaningful.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE NOVEMBER 11

We are taking Poinsettia orders now through November 11. The cost is $12 per plant. A list of donors, and those honored or memorialized will be printed in the bulletin on Christmas Eve. Please make checks out to First United Methodist Church with "poinsettia" in the memo. You can call the church office to leave information about honor or memorials, or fill out the form below.



NAME: _____ #OF PLANTS:_____

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF (CIRCLE ONE): _____

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF (CIRCLE ONE):_____

Please enclose with your check made out to First United Methodist with "Poinsettia" in the Memo.
Mail to: First United Methodist Church | 245 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

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Jon Priebe - Lead Minister x211; Howard Pippin - Associate Minister x217; Marvin Brown - Senior Minister Emeritus; Marie Willis - Director of Music & Worship x221; Eric Charnofsky - Organist & Accompanist; Jennifer Brooks - Director of Weekday Preschool x220; Donna Curfman - Children's Ministry Coordinator x213; Christy Meyers –Receptionist x210; Nancy Yeager –Finance x216; Sarah Neri – Publishing x212; Kim Kerr – Calendar x214; Ann Kaiser –Kitchen Manager; Joe Demeter & Greg Guarneri - Custodians



The Gift/Memorial Book is located in the parlor and is open to Sally Ann Leib and Mary Lowdermilk.

Our Deepest Sympathies to the families of members, Delores Marefka, who passed away on 10/6, and Gabe Elissa, who passed on 10/2.

Congratulations to members Sarah Demeter and Nate Barton who were married here in a beautiful ceremony on October 10.

Send Us Your News...We will be glad to publish (space allowing) milestone birthdays, anniversaries, births and other special news if you send a note to Sarah Neri, 330-923-5241 x212, or sarahnerifallsumc@gmail.com.



The deadline for the **December FCN is Thursday, November 19**.

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November 1-8:30 & 10:45am
All Saints & Communion

November 8-8:30 & 10:45am
Stewardship Sunday

November 15-8:30 & 10:45am
Consecration Sunday, 50 year Members, Charge Conference

Pastor Pippin will be preaching each Sunday in November.

November 22-8:30 & 10:45am
Christ the King Sunday

November 24-7:00pm
Community Service @First Christian

November 29--8:30 & 10:45am
Advent 1

